



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

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Route To:

Subject: Report on 2008 Region 5 Large Fire Cost Reviews

To: Chief

Enclosed is our report that includes the Large Fire (> \$5.0 million in total expenditure) Cost Reviews conducted for fiscal year 2008 incidents. Specific incidents that were reviewed are listed in Table 1, page 7 of the enclosed report.

The 2008 reviews revealed a number of areas requiring improvement and many others that were notable successes (found in the "Commendations" section of the report).

From these reviews, the Region identified and prioritized five-key actions for implementation during 2009. We believe these actions will provide the most benefit and result in significant fire suppression cost savings:

- Direct Protection Areas (DPAs) and Structure Protection
 - Complete the work we have undertaken in partnership with the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG) to more accurately reflect individual agency responsibilities through update of Federal and State DPAs in California.
 - Continue to work with state and local partners to further develop and implement criteria and definitions regarding "structure protection" and "perimeter control."
- State and local government trainees
 - Develop procedures and a plan to manage the training of state and local employees on Federal incidents.
 - Establish a process to identify and track these resources.
 - Ensure that trainee assignments are not into primary positions on incidents.
 - Ensure state and local trainees are not receiving assignments on Federal fires at the expense of Federal trainees.
- ✓ Cost Containment Form
 - Implement and monitor the use of the WO form by Type 1 and 2 IMTs assigned to California incidents to document incident cost containment measures.
 - Develop Regional process for submission, tracking, and evaluation of all cost containment measures so that they can be shared throughout the Region
 - Continue to educate the IMTs on the importance of this information in order to identify, communicate, and implement controls to effectively manage suppression expenditures.



- Agreements and Cost Sharing Methodologies
 - CWCG has tasked the California Interagency Incident Financial Advisors (CIIFA) group with providing training to Federal, State, and Local Agency Administrators, Incident Commanders, Deputy Incident Commanders, and other key personnel in fire agreements, cost share agreements, cost share methodologies, and cost apportionment. A one day course has been scheduled in three different locations in the Region.
 - Continue the development of a set of core curriculum programs for Forest Service Leadership regarding fire related issues.
 - Revise the process and protocols for the development, review, and maintenance of coop fire agreements and annual operating plans, including the revision of the "Agreements Generator."
- Large Fire Cost Reviews
 - Increase cadre of qualified Region 5 employees certified to perform large fire cost reviews
 - Develop a plan and process to conduct real-time (at and during the incident) large fire cost reviews. Review and adapt other Regional approaches to this issue.

If you have any questions, our points-of-contact are Jun Manalo at (707) 562-8829 or Patty Espinosa at (925) 588-5306.

/s/ Richard J. Cook (for)
RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: Beattria Solomon, Richard Kvale, Patricia Espinosa, Ed Hollenshead, Jun Manalo, Tom Harbour, Jaelith H Rivera, pdl r5 forest supervisors, pdl r5 fam